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## A Change of Heart

The executive committee of the American Federation of Labor has dropped the idea of calling a "general strike" as a protest against the Attorney General's temporary injunction. Instead, it will go to the courts and to Congress for its remedy.

This is a reaction toward common sense. A "general strike" conducted by the Federation of Labor, could not be general. It would represent war by a small minority of workers against the great majority. The largest single labor group in the United States is the farming group. What sympathy could the farmers have with a "general strike" to hamper enforcement of the laws against violence, intimidation and conspiracies for the purpose of interrupting interstate traffic?

The farmer wants his crops carried to market. He has no reason for helping strikers who want to tie up transportation because their war wages have been clipped a little by the Railroad Labor Board. The farmer's wages have been cut by economic pressure almost to pre-war levels. The rail shophmen are asking him and every other sufferer from post-war deflation to assist them in maintaining an abnormal wage scale. There can be no equity in this from the community point of view. A "general strike" to mulct the public for the benefit of a small privileged group would be an absurdity. The great mass of workers would not engage in it or tolerate it.

The courts are open to all. At the beginning of the shophmen's walk-out its leaders said that the Labor Board's decision violated the Esch-Cummins law. Why didn't they attack it on that ground? They could have petitioned for an injunction. But they preferred to order a strike and to try to prevent other workmen from taking the strikers' places. The latter and their sympathizers have sought not only to keep rolling stock from being repaired in the shops but also to damage cars and locomotives in service, to derail trains and to injure crews and passengers.

No government can stand for lawlessness of that sort. The Daugherty injunction may have been faultily drawn in certain details, as Mr. Borah and others have pointed out. But its main purpose was sound. It was protective of the public's right to uninterrupted rail service. The Federation of Labor is free to challenge the injunction and ask its amendment. It is free to urge Congress to abolish the Labor Board and to weaken the laws against conspiracy to interrupt interstate traffic. Here it is on solid ground, for a majority has the right to repeal laws as well as to make them.

But it would be on unsafe ground—even for itself—if it invoked a "general strike" to support a limited strike which had no excuse and was clearly opposed to the public welfare. The unions are entitled to respect when they go into the courts to protect what they think are their rights. But they would become odious and impossible if they sought to defend by coercion and anti-social activities special privileges which can be enjoyed only at the expense of the public.

## Tubes at Last

The all-around incompetence of Mr. Burleson's administration of the Postoffice Department reached something very like its peak in its treatment of New York City. In abolishing the pneumatic tube service Mr. Burleson doubled the number of mail trucks on our congested streets and slowed down deliveries within the city by several hours.

Just how much this stupid attack upon the country's metropolis cost in terms of lives and limbs lost and business delayed it is impossible to figure. But the damage has been considerable, the inconveniences great. To deny the greatest city in the country this simple aid in the avoidance of traffic and business

congestion was an inexcusable blunder, to state the case mildly.

It is good news that the re-establishment of the service under the present Administration will take effect without delay. By October 1 the bulk of the tubes will be in operation and by the new year the handiwork of Mr. Burleson will be a thing of the past.

## Mr. Cox's League of Nations

Now come the Democratic leaders and depose that if Mr. James M. Cox does not lay off his League of Nations talk in the approaching campaign they will not be responsible for the consequences. It seems a pity thus to pull Mr. Cox's coattails just when he is going strongest, but political leaders are practical men and they have no sentimental regard for the feelings of an orator, however eloquent. Better a firm "Sit down!" now than a loud "Throw him out!" from the audience later.

From which it might be argued that the American voters have no interest in the League and cannot bear even to hear its name mentioned. That is not the case, in our opinion. It is Mr. Cox's League of Nations that they are against—just as they arose in their wrath and rejected Mr. Wilson's League. They are against any such project when it comes to them as the personal property of a politician seeking to make political capital out of it.

If Mr. Cox knows anything he knows he is doing the worst service possible to the cause of the League in America by attempting to revive the old issue of 1920. That issue—of a super-state sprung full-blown from the brains of a few wise men and ready off-hand to run the universe—is dead beyond reviving. It was overwhelmingly buried by the American voters and it has been decently interred by action of the League Assembly. There remains the League as it is functioning today, an international body of conference and advice, amply competent to handle the minor problems which have come before it, amply vigorous to develop gradually and naturally into greater power and influence as public opinion ripens.

But such slow and normal processes raise no political issue upon which a defeated candidate can plant his feet, wave the flag of humanity and insist upon a renomination. Hence Mr. Cox's meddling voyage about Europe. Hence his prospective campaign about the United States. The real friends of the League ought to join the Democratic leaders in seating Mr. Cox gently but firmly and persuading him that there are some things too important to be botched by small, personal politics.

## Keeping Up With Jewell

Mr. Jewell's decision to deal with the minority group of railroads evidently presages the collapse of the shophmen's strike. The strikers' ranks have been depleted. Men employed by the roads which have made an offer to Mr. Jewell, practically the same offer which he declined a couple of weeks ago, are anxious to go back. They may go back of their own accord if he tries to hold them in idleness any longer. What was the strike all about? Originally it was a protest against a slight reduction in wages—a reduction which left the shophmen relatively much better off than they were in 1914. That is to say, not only had their actual wages been increased, compared with eight years ago, but the purchasing power of those wages was higher. Compensation had advanced faster and further than the cost of living.

Somebody had to be egged on, apparently, to make a fight against the Railroad Labor Board. The shophmen's union was selected as the "goat." Mr. Jewell boastfully repudiated the board and said that he had washed his hands of it. But the wage decision stood. It still stands. A few weeks after the walk-out it became clear that there was no chance of getting any of the railroads to join with the shophmen in reversing the Labor Board's award.

So the objective of the strike was altered. Its leadership undertook to get the strikers back with seniority rights—that is to say, with preferential claims to places which they had vacated and which had been filled by others. For a time in July and August it seemed to be the purpose of the strike to demonstrate that a railroad employee can quit work and still not quit work—that his duties to the road are canceled, but that the road's duties to him are only suspended.

But the seniority decisions of the Railroad Labor Board were also adhered to by the roads. So that issue evaporated. The minority group of executives then offered to take back the strikers without seniority rights. Mr. Jewell replied that he could not make a settlement except on a nation-wide basis.

Thus the nation-wide issue replaced seniority. Now, it appears, individual settlements are about to be sanctioned. The men on some roads will get back. That is the sum total of achievement to the credit of a strike leadership which set out to break the Railroad Labor Board and to demonstrate once more the efficacy of old-fashioned, brute-force methods of collective bargaining. However, somebody had to be

shown, and Mr. Jewell can at least claim for himself and the shophmen that costly and educative honor.

## Mrs. Harding's Illness

The whole country will learn with the deepest regret of Mrs. Harding's serious illness. She has won the affection and admiration of official Washington and of all who have come into contact with her. Her graciousness and good-will have made the White House a home of fine courtesy and true American hospitality. For itself and for its readers The Tribune expresses the warmest sympathy to Mrs. Harding in her suffering and to Mr. Harding in his hours of deep concern. There will be a universal hope that her recovery will be a speedy one.

## Brazil's Centenary

When, on September 7, 1822, Dom Pedro proclaimed the independence of Brazil he completed a revolution remarkable for its peaceful and almost household character. Dom Pedro was the son of the King of Portugal, who had moved his court to Brazil and proclaimed himself head of the United Kingdom of Portugal, Brazil and Algarve.

But there was an ever-growing opposition to the King and the Portuguese. As early as 1789, led by a cavalry officer nicknamed "The Tooth Puller," there had been a revolutionary outbreak inspired by the success of the American Revolution. The ideas of the French Revolution were slow to permeate, but in the first two decades of the nineteenth century they spread, and in 1821 there was trouble in numerous important centers. In these disturbances Dom Pedro championed the Brazilians against the Portuguese, and finally accepted the leadership of a definite movement of independence, which was successful with little difficulty, owing to the small number of Portuguese troops in Brazil and the overwhelming support of the Brazilians. He was proclaimed "Perpetual Defender of Brazil" and soon was accepted by the entire country.

Thus Brazil was quietly emancipated from Europe. There were numerous ties with the Portuguese, as was natural in view of the fact that the young Emperor was the son of the Portuguese King. These very ties later were the cause of his overthrow and served to vex the Brazilian nationalists. But with his accession Brazil assumed her place as an independent nation and was almost at once recognized by the United States. Her subsequent development as an empire and her final adoption of the republican form of government brought her into constant, close and friendly relations with the United States.

Less spectacular than our own achievement of independence, Brazil's birth as a nation was nevertheless hailed with enthusiasm in this country. Subsequent events justified the feeling of our traditionally anti-monarchic people that although Brazil took the form of an empire she was at heart a democracy. In time she discarded the form, and to-day she stands out as one of the foremost republics on the American continent.

## Thrones and the Stage

Although we seem to be in the Twilight of the Thrones, with royalties—in government, not in business—very much at a discount, some of the "divinity that doth hedge a king" is evidently still lying around loose to protect even sovereigns who have gone out of business from being portrayed on the dramatic stage.

A court in Berlin has decided against Emil Ludwig, the dramatist, in the injunction suit brought against him by William Hohenzollern to restrain him from producing his play, "Bismarck's Dismissal." Although Mr. Ludwig had treated the quondam Emperor somewhat more kindly than Sir John Tenniel did in the immortal cartoon, "Dropping the Pilot," the court finally held that the creative rights of the dramatist did not transcend the rights of the individual to protect his own character and acts from misrepresentation. Therefore it granted a permanent injunction—to the great indignation and disgust of German dramatists and authors in general, who declare that the decision will have a bad effect on the drama and literature.

By a curious coincidence only a few days before a somewhat similar case was disposed of in England—not, however, by the courts, but by the censor of plays, the Lord Chamberlain. The play was Miss F. Smith-Dampier's "The Queen's Minister," dealing with the first years of Queen Victoria's reign and the services of her much-adored minister, Lord Melbourne. The censor forbade the production of the play, not ostensibly because it portrayed the Queen, but because it violated a rule of his office which forbade the stage representation of any living person or any person who had not been dead at least fifty years. Of course, Victoria has not been dead fifty years, though the time of the play was more than eighty years ago.

It was enough to make the judges of Olympus grin to see the judges of Berlin so solicitous regarding the feelings of a criminal, fugitive from justice who dared not re-enter his native land to plead his case; and to

see the British censor exclude a play from performance at the very time when the government had sanctioned and protected with copyright Mr. Lytton Strachey's book dealing a thousand times more fully and more freely with the same august theme.

We do not recall that there was any thought of trying to prevent in this country the performance of Mr. Drinkwater's play "Abraham Lincoln," although in fact that work contained some regrettable blemishes of misrepresentation. Nor does it seem less permissible to write and produce a play about a man, living or dead, than to write and publish a book about him. In fact the book is likely to be read by far more persons than see the play, and to be remembered very much longer. In both cases the true rule is to grant to dramatist and author alike freedom of production, subject to the usual responsibility for abuse thereof.

More Truth Than Poetry  
By James J. Montague

Mr. Citizen  
Beware of the wakened American's wrath!  
The Yankee, from Yuma to Bangor,  
Is pleasant enough when he has a clear path,  
But ah, he is awful in anger!  
Let Congress insist on opposing his will  
When once on some law he has set it,  
Or try to put through an unpopular bill,  
And sometimes he almost won't let it!

He is gentle and kind when he gets what he likes,  
With living costs down and high wages,  
But let him be troubled by lock-outs and strikes  
And notice the way that he rages!  
When a strike gets to spreading all over the land  
The parties are wise if they drop it;  
He will rise in his fury and take the high hand,  
And almost get ready to stop it!

When tariff bills threaten to lighten the load  
He carries about in his pocket  
It is quite a sensation to watch him explode  
And roar like a spluttering rocket.  
When a bonus law adds to his rising expense  
And he hasn't the money to meet it,  
His quick indignation is hot and intense  
And almost attempts to defeat it.

He is quiet enough when you leave him alone—  
He is usually calm and contented—  
But when he is thwarted you'll find he is prone  
To get, of a sudden, demented.  
Still and all, as we saw, back in 1918,  
With a sense of profound satisfaction,  
Though we can't always trust his belligerent mien,  
That sometimes he goes into action!

## Not Very Helpful

We learn that substitutes for coal can be made from crude oil. It is also true that substitutes for gold can be made of platinum.

## There's Always Something

The trouble with the road to happiness is that there are so many detours in it.

## Almost Identical

The fuel situation presents a striking likeness to the railroad situation. (Copyright by James J. Montague)

## An Employer's Sympathy

To the Editor of The Tribune.  
Sir: It is no fun to strike and go without wages or but little for days and weeks or months together.

I am an employer on a small scale, but I would not feel right if my workmen could not have the privileges and comforts which I think necessary for myself, and certainly it would seem that men would not willingly suffer hunger and the sacrifices which must be borne unless their conditions were such as to be most serious.

The strike is an extreme measure, undertaken only when conditions make it seem necessary, and, while it causes inconvenience and trouble to the public, must be much more trying to the strikers.

As I look at it, the question is not what wages were before the war, but what is a comfortable living wage now. Experience seems to show that sufficient to provide for this does not cause injury to any one, but rather brings about conditions which result in advantages for every one, and those employers who are most liberal with wages are able to sell at the very lowest prices and still make a great deal of money.

On the other hand, the reduced income of the men on strike has quite an influence in reducing the prices of farm produce and manufactured goods, as they are not able to buy as usual.

H. H. SWIFT,  
Millbrook, N. Y., Sept. 7, 1922.

## The Cricket's Chirp

To the Editor of The Tribune.  
Sir: After reading in your paper of today a poem entitled "To a Cricket" let me remind the poet that the well known chirping sound produced by the cricket does not come from its throat but from the wings, which are provided with a stridulating apparatus.

M. B. MASHEK,  
Newark, N. J., Sept. 4, 1922.

## A Minor Matter

(From The Spectator, Republican)  
Mr. Mashek and I are both of the opinion that the poet who wrote the poem "To a Cricket" is well qualified to be the poet laureate for the Government of New York. It is no longer important if true.

## The Tower

## DREAMS

DREAMS can be terrible, mocking things,  
Son of mine.  
Even their memory aches and stings,  
Son of mine.  
One by one they are laid away.  
You, who loved them, must let them go.  
Back to the glamorous yesterday;  
Back to the region each man must know.  
Where the sun shines always and grass keeps green—  
The far-away land of the Might Have Been,  
Son of mine.

Dreams will break, but you mustn't cry.  
Son of mine.  
You must sit, silent, and watch them die,  
Son of mine.  
Once, I dreamed I should capture fame,  
Gold and glory would both be mine.  
Grateful millions would hail my name,  
Such, long since, was my dream's design.  
All that was perfect I planned to be;  
I, your father—and look at me,  
Son of mine!

Men don't talk of the dreams they've had,  
Son of mine.  
Save, perhaps, to a little lad,  
Son of mine.  
Who sits unheeding upon the floor,  
Solemnly piling his wooden blocks;  
Building and heeding your voice no more.  
Than the sunlight, bright on his yellow locks  
I speak, but you do not turn your head.  
What do you care for the things I've said,  
Son of mine?

Dreams are sweet, but they will not stay,  
Son of mine.  
One by one they have dropped away,  
Son of mine.  
Where is that courage, sublime and high?  
The wisdom, burning with tranquil flame?  
The spirit that never would cringe or lie?  
The shining record, untouched by shame?  
Whence have they vanished? You only stare  
At the shabby man in the shabby chair,  
Son of mine.

Deep in the past have the visions lain,  
Son of mine.  
Yet, so I dream, they shall rise again,  
Son of mine.  
Not like a myriad, unaided ghosts  
Will they come once more. I shall live to see  
Their bright resurgent, triumphant host  
Riding with you to your victory.  
Dreams that were mine once shall come to you;  
Dream them, lad; ah, dream them true,  
Son of mine!

"Political primaries," says Uncle Abimelech Bogardus, of Peekness, N. J., "is used by candidates for the nomination to try out all the dirty cracks one of 'em will use later against the nominee of 'other party'."

More people were arrested last week for driving cars when drunk than ever before in the history of the city. If you see a sober motorist it's becoming more and more certain these days that he's a bootlegger.

Reassembled Record Broken  
(From The Tribune)  
COPENHAGEN, Sept. 4.—The world's record for the pole vault was broken in the Copenhagen Stadium yesterday by Hoff, the Norwegian athlete, who cleared the bar 4 meters 9 centimeters. . . . The previous record in this event was made in 1920 at Antwerp by F. K. Fos, an American, who vaulted 4 meters 9 centimeters.

A strike in Mexico City has closed all the movie houses. The population can now give undivided attention to the next revolution.

Alms-houses Looms for Verse Model  
Sir: I had the honor of seeing my lines on "Phillip" in The Tower of June 17, and write to ask if the honor is all or if anything more is due. I could spend a few dollars for "Phillip."  
L. C. N. P.

THE DIMINISHED HUM  
(From The Catholic, N. Y. Recorder)  
Hied himself to the North, Jean Baptiste, expert embalmer with Deane & Deane, away from the busy hum of Catekill life, being at Old Forge, in the Adirondacks.

The present controversy over faith healing emphasizes again the fact that most people still believe that a cure, to be complete, must be in spite of themselves.

GRATITUDE  
Pale, misty moon,  
Shedding its haze upon a calm lagoon.  
Slumberous stars,  
Peeping in wonder through the cloud-made bars.  
Murmurous breeze,  
Sobbing, then laughing, in fantastic trees.  
Soft, subtle night,  
Wafting its perfume with a keen delight.  
What's left to do  
But to thank God for summer—and for you?  
J. PHILIP STACK.

The truly upright human, confident of his own rectitude, is, we suppose, the person who can receive an envelope from the Income Tax Bureau without hearing the gates of Atlanta creak on their hinges.

Well, Who Does?  
(From The Sun, N. Y., Long Island Traveler)  
Who says that Southold is not an honest town? A bicycle left in front of H. M. Hawkins' store was there for two days and nights before it was stolen.

The last few days before vacation are a "nerve" spot in wondering how you ever endured the preceding three hundred odd.

## EVEN IF THE BOWL OF SOUP ISN'T TO THEIR LIKING THERE MUST BE A SIMPLER METHOD OF UPSETTING IT

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## Secretary Denby's Return

By Quarterdeck

Secretary Denby's return from the Orient is hailed with great interest and encouragement in naval circles. His visit to Japan with the class of '81 from the Naval Academy will result in great good not only to the navy but to the country as well.

There was no excuse for condemning this cruise as a junket. Such action was inspired by political and personal pettiness. The transport Henderson did not make this trip solely for the Secretary and the Naval Academy graduates who accepted the friendly invitation of their classmate, Admiral Uriu, of the Japanese navy. This ship was due to visit the Pacific and the Philippines in the regular naval duty of replacement of personnel and transportation of supplies to the East. The Secretary and the officers paid their own personal expenses. The United States spent not one dollar nor expended one ton of coal for other than government purposes.

## The Junket of 1919

The history of the previous administration of the Navy Department gives us an account of a real smug pure naval junket—a junket of junkets. In the summer of 1919—the year before the Presidential election—the then Secretary of the Navy divided the battle fleet in defiance of naval strategy and took one half of it, together with an "armada" composed largely of useless ships, to the Pacific. Naval officers appropriately dubbed it a "political caravan." Thousands of tons of coal and many millions of gold dollars were wasted. The Secretary towed the Pacific Fleet along the Coast behind his political chariot, making speeches everywhere, promising naval bases to every seaport from San Diego to Puget Sound—a beautiful rally to win those states for the Democratic party. It was a gem of a junket, and yet, strange to say, the press failed to condemn it and not even a Republican in Congress rose to impeach it! This flagrant waste of many millions was ignored, though it was strategically stupid.

Secretary Denby's cruise was not made just previous to a Presidential

election. It has no political stigma. On the contrary, it was a truly national as well as an international event. It gave the Secretary an opportunity to inspect naval bases at the Canal Zone, San Diego, San Francisco, Hawaii, Guam and Manila—a matter of supreme importance at this time. Following the Washington conference and in view of the somewhat irritating situation between the United States and Japan, Mr. Denby's visit to Tokyo with the class of '81 was most timely and diplomatic. It promoted peace and established cordiality and mutual confidence between the two countries. There was need of such an influence.

## Cementing Friendly Relations

The navy of the United States has never provoked war. Its policies have always been dignified in firmness and peaceful in intent. The navy, for itself, and in loyalty to country, has always sought three things:

1. To be thoroughly prepared for war.
2. To be in all respects efficient for battle.
3. To "cultivate friendly relations" with all nations in its cruising routine the world over.

These three principles have ever guided the navy's conduct. There can be no criticism of such policies. The world cruise of the battle fleet in Roosevelt's time was a display of force, to be sure, but its intent and result were to promote peace. The mere fact that this country dared to send its entire fighting navy away from home for many months proved at once its friendliness and its confidence in the friendliness of other nations. It is the inborn instinct of naval officers, following traditions, to "cultivate friendly relations" wherever they cruise, whether in single ships or in fleets. It has been a most forceful influence for good in our foreign diplomacy. Such has been the effect of Mr. Denby's cruise in the Henderson.

In addition to the inspection of our distant possessions and the good diplomacy with Japan, it is most fortunate that the Secretary of the Navy should have visited Peking and

observed the existing conditions in China at this time. With the much-to-be-desired establishment of a stable and recognized central government in China, of which there is a bright prospect at present, the national and naval policies of the United States will be decidedly affected. What will be China's naval ambition and her offensive and defensive plans in the future? Will she be content to remain helpless? The United States is interested in the preservation of China's sovereignty.

Aside from the many good results of this cruise of Secretary Denby, the navy finds in his return hope in the prospect of a new naval plan that will bring the fleet up to date in its strategic and tactical preparedness. There is evidence that a sound and modern doctrine has been studied and prepared for his consideration. The needs of a strong air force have been recognized. The airplane carrier is to be pushed to completion and plans are to be carried by all types of ships. The fleet will no longer be helpless on the upper plane.

Moreover, the submarine is now a factor. This is most important. Its force on the lower plane has been long neglected. It is welcome now that new types are to be built and efficiency sought in the submarine fleet.

## The Navy Personnel

The personnel is above all things vital. The Navy Department is only doing its duty in asking for 10,000 additional men. Every ship and every submarine should be manned. The air force and the submarines will require thousands of trained men. They must be trained and ready all the time—not some of the time. Recruits—untrained men—not only lose their own lives, but they imperil the navy and the nation. The navy in war is no place for amateurs. Skilled men are demanded from the day war is declared.

The prospect for the navy is bright. The battleship holiday is a boon. The naval mind has finally jumped the single track of conservatism and has begun to function in three dimensions—above and below, as well as on the surface of the sea.

## Back to Barbarism?

To the Editor of The Tribune.  
Sir: Edmund Burke stated that it was not possible to find a nation, and is it any more feasible to place a barbaric nation in the hands of a recovered? Eight years ago Germany and Austria set out to conquer the world and lay waste to the United States if they would gladly turn over all their assets to the United States if the country would appoint a commission to administer their finances for the benefit of their creditors. They might have recovered from the damage inflicted by the guns of their enemies, but now find that their own presses have caused greater harm than the collapse of their empire.

Does it not seem probable that dead people must relapse into barbarism because they have no money to pay the expenses which civilization calls for? No matter how skillful a mechanic will be no how many hours he is willing to work, his labor is all in vain if he is paid in a currency worth only the fraction of a cent on a dollar.

Germany and Austria may be painting out the fact that no nation can afford to be civilized. It is a situation which would greatly interest a visitor from Mars when it was explained to him by Bernard Shaw and Mr. Waller. R. S. HOWLAND,  
South Jacksonville, Fla., Sept. 8, 1922.

W. H. ALLEN,  
Brooklyn, Sept. 5, 1922.